

11. (Amended) A flexible milk hose according to claim 1, wherein

the centre piece consists, at least partially, of a permanently chemically passive and stable material which will not give off secretions to the milk during the milking operation.

13. (Amended) A flexible milk hose according to claim 2, wherein

the wall thickness of the reinforcement elements is smaller in the area of the middle of the centre piece than the wall thickness of the reinforcement elements arranged in the boundary area of the centre piece.

15. (Amended) A flexible milk hose according to claim 2, wherein

the wall thickness of the intermediate areas between two neighbouring reinforcement elements in the area of the middle of the centre piece is smaller than the wall thickness of the intermediate areas of the reinforcement elements arranged in the boundary area of said centre piece.

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment effects claim cancellation through the elimination of multiple dependency in order to reduce the filing fee. Entry of the amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee is respectfully requested..

Respectfully submitted,

DGB/jw

David G. Boutell

FLYNN, THIEL, BOUTELL
& TANIS, P.C.
2026 Rambling Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-1699
Phone: (616) 381-1156
Fax: (616) 381-5465

Dale H. Thiel	Reg. No. 24 323
David G. Boutell	Reg. No. 25 072
Ronald J. Tanis	Reg. No. 22 724
Terryence F. Chapman	Reg. No. 32 549
Mark L. Maki	Reg. No. 36 589
David S. Goldenberg	Reg. No. 31 257
Sidney B. Williams, Jr.	Reg. No. 24 949
Liane L. Churney	Reg. No. 40 694
Brian R. Tumm	Reg. No. 36 328
Tricia R. Cobb	Reg. No. 44 621

Encl: Marked-Up Version of Claims 5, 6, 9, 11, 13 and 15
336.9804

a

MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIMS 5, 6, 9, 11, 13 and 15

5. (Amended) A flexible milk hose according to claims 3-~~or~~
4, wherein

the distance between two respective neighbouring reinforcement elements decreases from the middle of the centre piece towards the respective first and second end portions.

6. (Amended) A flexible milk hose according to claims 1-~~2~~
~~or~~ 5, wherein

the reinforcement elements are implemented as spaced-apart elevations of material enclosing the circumference of the centre piece at least partially.

9. (Amended) A flexible milk hose according to claims 1-~~to~~
8, wherein

the first and second end portion have each formed thereon a reinforcement element.

11. (Amended) A flexible milk hose according to claims 1-~~to~~
10, wherein

the centre piece consists, at least partially, of a permanently chemically passive and stable material which will not give off secretions to the milk during the milking operation.

13. (Amended) A flexible milk hose according to claims 2-~~to~~
10, wherein

the wall thickness of the reinforcement elements is smaller in the area of the middle of the centre piece than the wall thickness of the reinforcement elements arranged in the boundary area of the centre piece.

15. (Amended) A flexible milk hose according to claims 2-~~to~~
14, wherein

the wall thickness of the intermediate areas between two neighbouring reinforcement elements in the area of the middle of the centre piece is smaller than the wall

Serial No. 10/031

May 14, 2002

thickness of the intermediate areas of the reinforcement elements arranged in the boundary area of said centre piece.